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If they want to continue with what they've been doing, that choice is completely open. If they would elect to do something different then that is open to them. All it is doing is allowing a choice. It really comes down to a decision about how best to serve the constituents in a local community, and the question is whether we do that by a state mandate or whether we allow the people in that local community to make their own decision. So, again, I oppose the Byars amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the debate has been lively. Certainly there has been an element of confusion relative to what the committee amendments want to accomplish. I don't think there's any confusion on what I want to accomplish with my amendment. I appreciate what Senator Schellpeper, the point he made and the fact that we should always be sensitive to the taxpayers of our districts, of our counties, of the state of Nebraska, and I feel that we're being exactly that. Because I don't feel it should be the burden of any taxpayer who pays his taxes promptly to carry those who don't. And when we send a first notice out, which is in the statutes right now, you have basically 14 months after that notice is sent out to pay those taxes before this publication is printed. You have about as much opportunity to remember that you forgot to pay your taxes as I can possibly imagine. I don't think this is punitive in any way. So I would say the publication, the requirement to publish, is one that protects all of us as taxpayers in our counties and our districts. I, having been a county official, I certainly concur with Senator Crosby. The county courthouse is still very much a political animal and you have pressures put on elected county officials, and I say "elected", because there's nobody more close to the...that are more close to the electorate than county officials. And let's not forget that as they have tried to streamline their offices and they have tried to be efficient in the way they run county government at the demand of their taxpayers, when they have an option of another task to do, such as putting together the publication of delinquent tax parcel...delinquent parcels of real estate, versus the regular, every day duties that they have taking care of their constituency in their office, if this is an option, believe me, many county treasurers are going to push the notification off to